

**JUSTICE AND PEACE COMMISSION
THE ARCHDIOCESE OF KINGSTON AND THE DIOCESE OF ONTARIO
January 12, 2010**

Present:

Chris Forster (chair)	Margie Ann McKinnon	Anne Heemskerk
Alice Gazeley	Sr. Una Byrne	Jamie Swift
Leigh Smith	Deacon Mike Winn	Ann Gollinger

Regrets:

Sr. Peggy Malcolm, Rev. Valerie Kelly, Shawn McDonald, Cindy Morgan, Jan Sosiak, Barbara Quinn, Fr. Lloyd Cummings, Fr. Al Alilio

Ex Officio:

Bishop Bruce	Archbishop O'Brien
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Arms-length members:

Melanie Murphy	Claire Marchand
Tara Kainer	John Brisbois
Cathy Cavanaugh	Brian Carroll
Cathy Bryan	Wanda Campbell

Opening Prayer

We all joined in the Lord's prayer

Approval of agenda

Moved by Margie Ann and seconded by Leigh that the agenda be approved with the addition of the ISARC report and some announcements by Chris.

Approval of Minutes of December 2009

Moved by Alice and seconded by Leigh with one change: Alice was present at the December meeting.

Updates & Reports

The person who was interested in the position of coordinator of this Commission has withdrawn their name. The job description for this position has already been

done. There was discussion of the possibilities open to us. A popular suggestion was that we advertise the position in the Diocesan news paper and possibly nationally. Since Debra's former position with the Diocese of Ontario has not been filled there was also much discussion of the possibility of a joint appointment by the Anglican and Roman Catholic Dioceses. A subcommittee was formed to consist of Alice, Chris and hopefully Valerie. (Chris will approach Valerie). This committee will meet and make recommendations to the Bishop and Archbishop.

To understand and apply Christian Social Teaching

CCODP: Archbishop O'Brien will speak about his African tour on Feb. 24th at the Diocesan Centre. Luke is preparing a flyer which we will circulate. Ann and Chris will look after this.

Chris has invited Luke to come to Kingston on March 26. He is planning to stay for the weekend and will likely visit some of the parishes for D & P.

With the approach of Lent we need to be thinking about the share lent collection and the school Think Fasts.

A flyer on Catholic Social Teaching will be shared with the Commission next month.

PWRDF: CDs celebrating the PWRDF anniversary sold well and were a good fundraiser. Also sold were Christmas cards featuring a scene of a Northern Christmas which had been done by Kurelek.

Education: Next workshop will probably be in the Fall with hopefully some sort of youth connection. Mike announced that he would prefer not to chair the committee but would be happy to remain on it.

Chris will call a meeting of this committee. Members include Jamie, Leigh, Chris, Ann and Alice

To advocate for the vulnerable in Society: locally, provincially, globally.

Human Trafficking Committee: has not met this past month. Disappointed that the proroguing of parliament has stopped passage of pending bills.

Prison Ministry: An evaluation meeting was held following the recent course for volunteers. Results were very positive. Graduates from the course are choosing the institution at which they would like to work. It is planned to offer the course again in the Fall.

ISARC: Jamie reported on the upcoming social audit and report. This report, organized by ISARC, provides an opportunity for those who are most vulnerable in our society to tell their stories of living in poverty in Ontario. Kingston's audit will take place on April 22 or 23. Rapporteurs, unbiased people with some community standing, are needed for the audit. These people will meet folk where they live following arrangement with relevant services or agencies. A local organizing committee is being formed. Recruitment for the role of rapporteur and for the organizing committee is proceeding. Results of the audit will be available before the next provincial election which will be held in the Fall of 2011.

To make public statements on behalf of the Dioceses

KAIROS: Many letters and emails have been sent. We are encouraged to continue sending letters to Minister Bev Oda, and to the Prime Minister and to encourage others to do so. Personal contact is also very effective. Una reported that leaders of the RHSJ, CND and SP religious communities visited Peter Milliken to discuss the KAIROS funding cuts. He was very supportive. We hope also to have a group representing other organizations and churches visit him.

The suggestion was made by Jamie that groups also approach Conservative members in their ridings, e.g. Leeds/Grenville

To Support like minded groups seeking social justice.

Lay Faith Development: Margie Ann continues to support students taking extension courses from St. Francis Xavier University. One of Margie Ann's students, who also has an autistic child, will be leading a workshop on January 30th on working with students with autism.

A woman's retreat is being planned for Sept 17th to 19th at Glen House on the Thousand Island Parkway. A group of ladies in the Eastern Deanery have been involved with this. Ann Walsh from Newfoundland and an associate with the Redemptorists will be the main speaker. Ann works in adult faith development. The aim of the retreat is leisure and inspiration.

ALCDSB: Chris reported that they are currently reviewing their environmental policy, and that in spite of pressure from the sellers of bottled water the Board is standing firm.

The Toronto Street retreats (poverty/homelessness awareness) received great press coverage and the students who took part appreciated the experience and would like more Street Retreats if possible.

During Advent, there was a great response in all the schools to the various Clothing, food and Toy Drives.

EOCDSB: All their schools also collected food items for the food banks during December, with good response. Schools are now preparing for their Share Lent collection, Lenten Think Fasts and walk against poverty.

Sisters of Providence: Una reported on their activities.

Prison Farms: In their visit to Peter Milliken there was also discussion of the fate of prison farms. He suggested that appeal needs to be made nationally. There is great concern that new legislation (thankfully currently on hold) will cause more incarceration and more need for prisons resulting in an American style system of privatized super prisons with little or no rehabilitation. It is important that everyone keep working on this issue. Bridgit Doherty who works part-time for the Sisters continues to work on this issue. She has been sending information to Chris who disseminates it to us. With our smaller institutions some limited rehabilitation does occur. An example was given by Leigh - Christmas dinner at St. George's Cathedral which was cooked and served by inmates from Frontenac – a very successful and popular event.

Tara is continuing with her projects and her supportive role.

The Healing Violence Committee of the Sisters of Providence is sponsoring a workshop on internet safety entitled, "Abuse Perpetuated by Technology". It will be held on Saturday, April 24 from 9am to 4pm. Guest speakers will be Rob Nickel and Stephanie Morgan. Register by phoning 613 – 542 – 8826 or by email at info@psck.org

Faith and Justice Coalition: Leigh reported that they have sent a series of letters on the KAIROS funding cuts. They have also written to the Nova Scotia government applauding them on the banning of exploration for uranium. One of the members wrote a letter to the Whig Standard about the negative environmental impact of the poker run. This was in response to some positive comments in the newspaper.

Youth: Anne announced that there will be an Archdiocesan Youth Gathering on Saturday, May 8th from 10 – 5pm at Holy Cross Catholic School in Kingston. The theme of the day will be, "Celebrating Catholic Youth 2010". It will bring together youth from across the diocese. Kevin McDonald, a seminarian from Cornwall will be the main speaker. He has spoken at Journey to the Father and was very well received. There will be ten different workshops including vocations, justice and liturgy.

Twinning: As well as the usual school groups there will be representatives from our Twinning Committee as well as the Archbishop himself visiting in Jamaica this March. Arrangements are being made for meetings at that time between the two twinning committees.

Roundtable: Alice reported that they are in the process of finalizing base data to be used to determine the reduction of poverty. They are also working on the next youth summit which will take place on April 7. They are continuing to develop long range plans for community engagement. The aim is to help organizations and groups in developing their own plans for poverty reduction.

New Business and Announcements

The 2010 Trinity Institute Conference will be held at St. James Church in Kingston. The theme is "Building an Ethical Economy". The dates are January 27 – 29. More information may be obtained from the Trinity website, www.trinitywallstreet.org/faith/institute/2010/ or by contacting the local coordinator, Mary Raddon at mraddon@hotmail.com

Thanks to Tara, a letter from Make Poverty History was distributed, summarizing some of this year's activities as well as planned activities for 2010 and sending good wishes for the New Year.

The 1st National Catholic Conference on Refugee Sponsorship is being held January 13 – 15th at Manresa in Pickering. Mieke Thorne will be attending and will share information with us at a future meeting.

Next Meeting

February 9

Person Responsible for Prayer

Valerie

Adjournment

Moved by Leigh and seconded by Ann at 8:45